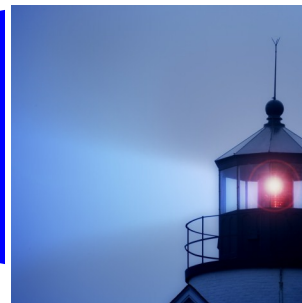




*Supporting infants,  
children, and youth with  
combined vision and  
hearing loss*

## *The Beacon*

Newsletter of  
The Wisconsin DeafBlind Technical Assistance Project  
Volume 2, Issue 2: July 2012



### **Regional Meetings for Families Begin!**

*Submitted by Julie T., parent of Emily*



On May 5, three families attended the first regional get-together for a "Pool Party" at the Saukville YMCA. In addition to having time to network, share snacks and to learn to enjoy the pool, families were privileged to work with Occupational Therapist, Wendy Helms-Orndorf. She provided one-on-one assistance to each deaf-blind child, meeting them where they were comfortable and working with them to move to the next steps. All of the children enjoyed the water, yet each had different goals to work on.

Our family brought our child's intervener with us to learn new techniques that she could try at our hometown YMCA. We learned how to have fun while stretching and increasing tolerance to a variety of new activities in the water. Our intervener said, "This activity was awesome and well worth our time!" We are grateful to Brenda Eberle and Becky Hovde for organizing this wonderful opportunity.



*Does this sound fun and educational?  
Read on for another regional meeting that  
happened recently and one yet to come!*

*"...found a way to use the ball to help stretch out our daughter's hips and hamstrings without having to fight with her....."*

*Brenda, parent of Brittany*



On Saturday, June 16th, we had a great time at our Ball Therapy Regional Meeting in Portage with Physical Therapist, Barbara Hypes. I've known Barbara for nine years and each time I hear her at a conference or spend time with her, I learn something new. The techniques Barbara showed us are fabulous and was a great way to do an activity with our child that can benefit her in so many ways.

Barbara worked with my daughter for many years. She took Brittany to the next level in her development and kept challenging her to do more. Brittany rose to the occasion. Barbara has worked with a variety of children with many different disabilities. She speaks across the nation, teaching other physical therapists what she has learned from the children with whom she has worked.

My husband and 11-year-old daughter came to the regional meeting and they were able to get some hands on instruction from Barbara so they could do some things on the exercise ball with Brittany. We were even able to bring the ball home so we could get right to working with Brittany while it was fresh in our minds.

I would like to invite all families throughout the state to join our next visit with Barbara in Rice Lake on October 13th. Please do not let distance hold you back. It is well worth your time.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or if you would be interested in coming to Rice Lake. Any age child with combined vision and hearing loss is welcome to participate.

Also check out Barbara's website at [www.barbarahypes.com](http://www.barbarahypes.com)

*".....never thought a ball could do so many things, I love it!"*  
*Jennifer, parent of Rylan*

*Submitted by Brenda Eberle, WDBTAP Family Specialist and parent of Brittany*



Barbara Hypes, P.T.  
Resources and Intervention Strategies



This web site is designed to give you access to the following:

- Educational DVD's
- Ball Book and Hypotonia Book
- Information on Courses Barbara Teaches, such as Hypotonia, Spasticity, Dystonia, Sensory Processing for Motor Function
- Scheduled Courses
- Resources that are Related to Pediatric Therapy
- Therapy Strategies

## Intervention Strategies Using The Therapy Ball



### Join us for our next 2012 Regional Family Meeting!

When: October 13, 2012

Time: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Where: Rice Lake AmericInn

Barbara Hypes (PT) has been a pediatric physical therapist since 1981. She has lectured extensively throughout the United States and has authored two books on this type of treatment. Barbara will be demonstrating and offering assistance to families on the use of the therapy ball to improve range of motion, joint mobility, muscle strengthening, and enhancing reactions to weight shift, issues that are often experienced by our deaf-blind children.

Register by providing the information below via email, mail, or phone.

**Registration ends October 5!**

Registration Information: Name of Deaf-blind Child Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of all Family Members attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies?: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Becky Hovde, WDBTAP Project Assistant  
124 2nd Street, Suite 11  
Baraboo, WI 53913  
Phone: (608) 356-2023

Or email registration information to:  
[rebecca.hovde@wesp-dhh.wi.gov](mailto:rebecca.hovde@wesp-dhh.wi.gov)

## Calendar of Events

### **\*\*Regional Meetings Scheduled\*\***

October 13 Therapy Ball Class at Rice Lake  
AmericInn

**See Page 3 for registration details.**



You can now find us on Facebook!

Around the 'net

**Georgia Tools for Life**

<http://www.gatfl.org/>

**This site has a searchable database of “apps”  
for several different devices, including iPad.**

**Just click on the icon to the right  
of the home page**

**“Our Favorite Apps for  
Learning Working and Playing”**

**Let us know if you find an app that  
works for you and your child!**



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Consultant

**Brenda Eberle**  
Family Specialist

TO: